

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-13

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FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

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INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

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USEUCOM

USDOCOSOUTH

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 149

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PFOR CY

SUBJECT: GRIVAS DIES

1. EOKA-B LEAFLET ANNOUNCED DEATH OF GEN. GRIVAS SUNDAY AFTERNOON, JANUARY 27, ALLEGEDLY OF HEART ATTACK. LEAFLET SAYS THAT GRIVAS DESIGNATED SUCCESSOR (UNNAMED) TO CONTINUE STRUGGLE; BODY TO BE DELIVERED TO "GREEK NATION" THROUGH GREEK EMBASSY HERE. GOCYPRUS HAS PROCLAIMED THREE-DAY PERIOD OF MOURNING, WITH FLAGS AT HALF-STAFF. BURIAL TO BE IN ATHENS WEDNESDAY, JAN 30, WHICH WILL BE PUBLIC HOLIDAY HERE. APPARENTLY STILL UNRESOLVED WHO FROM GOCYPRUS WILL ATTEND FUNERAL. MAKARIOS HIMSELF MAY GO; WE SUSPECT NEGOTIATIONS UNDERWAY WITH GOGREECE.

2. MAKARIOS HAS CANCELLED SCHEDULED PRESS CONFERENCE.

3. BOTH GOG AMBASSADOR LAGACOS AND NATIONAL GUARD (NG) COMMANDER GENERAL DENISIS HAVE VISITED GRIVAS' COFFIN IN
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LIMASSOL; NG GUARD OF HONOR AT THE HOUSE. BODY TO BE ON

VIEW IN PHANEROMENI CHURCH IN NICOSIA LATER THIS AFTERNOON.

4. RADIO HAS ANNOUNCED THAT ARCHBISHOP HAS DECIDED "ON ADVICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL" TO RELEASE ALL PERSONS CONVICTED OF SEDITIOUS ACTIVITY AND END TRIALS OF PERSONS ACCUSED OF SUCH ACTIVITY.

5. COMMENT: OUR INITIAL ESTIMATE OF POLITICAL IMPACT FOLLOWS: GRIVAS DEATH WILL HASTEN DISINTEGRATION OF EOKA-B; IT DOUBTFUL ANY SUCCESSOR COULD HOLD THE ORGANIZATION TOGETHER AS GENERAL DID. AS BREAK-UP PROCEEDS, WE MAY SEE GREATER RATE OF VIOLENCE FROM HARD-CORE DETERMINED TO SHOW THAT EOKA-B STILL HAS CLOUT. (TRAGIC AND OMINOUS HINT OF WORSE TO COME WERE RECENT BRUTAL MURDERS OF TWO MEN, BOMBING OF TV RELAY, RANDOM BOMBINGS AND SHOOTINGS IN LIMASSOL -- MAINLY BY EOKA-B CADRE. PUBLIC REACTION TO MURDERS HAS BEEN VIOLENT, INCLUDING STRONG DENUNCIATIONS BY CLERIDES AND CENTRIST PRESS AND ORGANIZATIONS.)

6. WE MAY ANTICIPATE GUSH OF FLORID ENOSIS RHETORIC AS GREEK HERE AND ON MAINLAND HONOR GRIVAS. IMPACT OF ALL THIS EMOTION ON TURKS AND ON INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS WILL BE NEGATIVE, THOUGH PROBABLY TRANSIENT.

7. MORE BASIC QUESTION FOR ENOSIS CAMP IS WHO WILL ASSUME GRIVAS POLITICAL MANTLE. EMBASSY HAS REPORTED (REF NICOSIA 135) THAT NICOS SAMPSON HAS LATELY BEEN MOVING RIGHT IN CLEAR BID TO CAPTURE ENOSIST SUPPORT. PARTIES OF BOTH CENTER AND RIGHT MAY WELL FACE PERIOD OF REALIGNMENT WITH GRIVAS REMOVED FROM SPECTRUM.

8. APPARENT GOGREECE AGREEMENT TO HAVE GRIVAS BURIED IN ATHENS WILL HELP ATHENS-NICOSIA RELATIONS AND REMOVES LIKELIHOOD THAT GRIVAS' GRAVE WILL BECOME PILGRIMAGE SITE AND CENTER OF DISTURBANCE ON ISLAND.

9. GRIVAS' DEATH SHOULD GIVE ARCHBISHOP MORE ROOM FOR MANEUVER BY REMOVING A DANGEROUS CRITIC OF ANY ACCOMMODATION WITH TURK CYPRIOTS. HOWEVER, THIS FLEXIBILITY SEEMS LARGELY THEORETICAL, SINCE WE DOUBT ARCHBISHOP HAS ANY EXPECTATION THAT INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS SOON LIKELY TO SUCCEED AND THEREBY

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FORCE HIM TO FACE ACCOMMODATION ISSUE.
GRANT

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